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39. *Inadequate allotment of public funds for the Kottayam division.*

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Kottayam Taluk) thanked the Government for having recognised the inadequacy of the annual allotment of funds for public works in the Kottayam division and for having promised to redress the grievance. He also expressed his thankfulness to Government for allowing the representatives of the people a voice in the selection of the urgent and important works and hoped that they would deserve the confidence so kindly reposed in them. He said that the people of the division had no objection to meet any Government demand, but what they complained of was about their having to contribute to the comforts and luxuries of people who were far better off than themselves. An examination of the State acounts would show that Government were spending much more upon the Southern division and on the planting districts than on the Kottayam division. He was glad that Government had at last taken steps to remove this discontent on the part of the people of North Travancore and he hoped that it was but the first step and that the policy would be steadily followed in the future.

In regard to the method of carrying out the public works required, the Member suggested the desirability of appointing a small committee of competent men to go to each taluk and, after local inspection and consultation with the ryots and the local officers, to draw up and submit to Government a list of the important public works necessary for each locality and the order in which they should be executed. If that was done, and if the programme was adhered to and steadily worked out by Government, there would be no room for any reasonable complaint.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the Member are noted.

40. *Equitable distribution of allotments for public works and the desirability of entrusting the funds to the Division Peishkars.*

Mr. Raman Karunakaran (Member, Parur Taluk) requested that, in distributing the funds for public works every year, due consideration might be shown to those taluks which yielded a good revenue and in which the absolute wants of the people, such as roads, canals, tanks, anicuts, etc., remained to be attended to. In the case of such local wants, it was not possible for the Government to fully realise the urgency of the works required, especially when similar demands of varying degrees of urgency were indiscriminately placed before the Assembly every year from every part of the State. He said that it was therefore desirable to place the funds annually sanctioned at the disposal of the Division Peishkars, as there was then

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every likelihood of the urgent works being discriminated and attended to.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the Member are noted.

41. *Annual provision of funds for irrigation works.*

Mr. T. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyatinkara Taluk) said that the taluk, which he represented, contributed a large increase of revenue to the State as a result of the settlement. Still, in the matter of irrigation works, it had been allowed to remain in a backward condition all along. Till the year 1074, a sum of about Rs. 5,000 used to be annually allotted for the taluk. But, after that year, no irrigation work was done in the taluk. He said that, if the Kodayar Right Bank Channel were cut as far as possible, it would afford great relief to the ryots, but till that was done, a reasonable amount should be provided in the budget every year for the improvement of the existing canals and irrigation tanks in the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the Member are noted.

V.—Revenue and Finance.

42. *Reduction of the export duty on copra.*

Mr. Devan Krishnan Karthavu (Member, Shertallay Taluk) said that, under the Notification dated 10th June 1907, the export duty on copra was raised, as a tentative measure for three years, from 1st Mithunam 1082. As the price of cocoanuts had considerably fallen since then, he requested that the duty on the article might be reduced.

Dewan's reply.—Till the expiry of the tentative period of three years, the question cannot be considered.

43. *Sale of impure salt at cost price for purposes of manure.*

Mr. Raman Karunakaran (Member, Parur Taluk) said that experience showed that ordinary salt, if applied to the roots of cocoanut trees, acted as good manure. But it was difficult for the people to purchase large quantities of salt at the price at which it was being sold, for the purpose of using it as manure. In the allams where salt was manufactured, a good quantity of impure salt was at present being thrown out as not useful for any purpose. He suggested that it would be an encouragement to the cocoanut industry, if arrangements could be made for the sale of the impure salt at cost price to the cocoanut cultivators from all the bankshalls where common salt was sold. The only objection that could be raised to the proposal was the possible consumption of the impure salt by people and the consequent loss of reve-

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